

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.-38. (Cancelled)

39. (New) A test strip for conducting testing on a bodily fluid comprising:
a strip body defining a capillary test chamber including a test reagent, the capillary
test chamber opening along an edge and having a sample application port at the edge, the
capillary test chamber having a length extending from the edge and a width, said strip
body including a first, transparent or translucent portion which overlies a first part of the
capillary test chamber and permits the first part of the capillary test chamber to be visible
through the first portion, said strip body further including a second, opaque portion
overlying a second part of the capillary test chamber and adjoining the first portion, the
first portion and the second portion together defining an opaque, fill line extending across
the width of the capillary test chamber and positioned intermediate the length of the
capillary test chamber such that the filling of liquid to the fill line indicates sufficient
filling of the capillary test chamber for the test strip to be useful in testing the bodily fluid.

40. (New) The test strip of claim 39 in which the opaque portion is colored to
provide a visible contrast with the bodily fluid to be tested.

41. (New) The test strip of claim 39 in which said strip body includes a
hydrophilic surface defining at least a portion of the capillary test chamber.

42. (New) The test strip of claim 39 in which the first, transparent or
translucent portion extends inwardly of the test strip from the sample application port.

43. (New) The test strip of claim 42 in which each of the first portion and the
capillary test chamber has a length extending in the direction inwardly from the sample
application port, the length of the first portion being shorter than the length of the
capillary test chamber.

44. (New) The test strip of claim 39 in which the first portion is dimensioned and positioned such that greater than about 75% of the width of the capillary test chamber is visible through the first portion.

45. (New) The test strip of claim 39 in which said strip body further includes a third, opaque portion extending adjacent one side of the capillary test chamber and a fourth, opaque portion extending adjacent the other side of the capillary test chamber.

46. (New) The test strip of claim 39 in which said strip body further includes a vent hole communicating with the capillary test chamber.

47. (New) The test strip of claim 46 in which the fill line is positioned between the sample application port and the vent hole.

48. (New) The test strip of claim 39 and which further includes at least two conductive tracks affixed to said strip body and exposed to the capillary test chamber, the test reagent overlying at least a portion of the conductive tracks exposed to the capillary test chamber.

49. (New) The test strip of claim 48 in which the conductive tracks comprise a working electrode and a counter electrode, each electrode extending across the width of the capillary test chamber, the first, transparent or translucent portion being dimensioned and positioned to overlie the entire width of the working electrode and at least 10% of the width of the counter electrode.

50. (New) The test strip of claim 49 in which the first portion is dimensioned and positioned to overlie the entire width of both the working and counter electrodes.

51. (New) The test strip of claim 39 in which said strip body includes a substrate having an upper surface, and a spacer attached to the upper surface of the substrate and defining a channel opening at one edge of the substrate and extending

interiorly from the edge, the spacer including an upper surface; said strip body further including a cover attached to the upper surface of the spacer and extending over the channel, the cover, spacer and substrate defining the capillary fill chamber opening along an edge of said strip body; the cover including the opaque fill line; said strip body further including a vent hole communicating with the capillary fill chamber.

52. (New) The test strip of claim 51 and which further includes at least two conductive tracks affixed to said strip body and exposed to the capillary test chamber, the test reagent overlying at least a portion of the conductive tracks exposed to the capillary test chamber.

53. (New) The test strip of claim 52 in which the conductive tracks comprise a working electrode and a counter electrode, each electrode extending across the width of the capillary test chamber, the first, transparent or translucent portion being dimensioned and positioned to overlie the entire width of the working electrode and at least 10% of the width of the counter electrode.

54. (New) The test strip of claim 53 in which the first portion is dimensioned and positioned to overlie the entire width of both the working and counter electrodes.

55. (New) The test strip of claim 51 in which the cover includes a hydrophilic surface defining at least a portion of the capillary test chamber.

56. (New) A test strip for conducting testing on a bodily fluid comprising:
a strip body defining a capillary test chamber including a test reagent, the capillary test chamber opening along an edge of said strip body and having a sample application port at the edge, the capillary test chamber having a length extending from the edge and a width, said strip body including a transparent or translucent portion which overlies a part of the capillary test chamber and permits the capillary test chamber to be visible through the transparent or translucent portion, said strip body further including an opaque, fill line extending across the width of the capillary test chamber and positioned such that the filling of liquid to the fill line

indicates sufficient filling of the capillary test chamber for the test strip to be useful in testing the bodily fluid.

57. (New) The test strip of claim 56 in which the first, transparent or translucent portion extends inwardly of the test strip from the sample application port.

58. (New) The test strip of claim 56 in which said strip body further includes a vent hole communicating with the capillary test chamber.

59. (New) The test strip of claim 58 in which the fill line is positioned between the sample application port and the vent hole.

60. (New) The test strip of claim 56 and which further includes at least two conductive tracks affixed to said strip body and exposed to the capillary test chamber, the test reagent overlying at least a portion of the conductive tracks exposed to the capillary test chamber.

61. (New) A test strip for conducting testing on a bodily fluid comprising: a strip body defining a capillary test chamber including a test reagent, the capillary test chamber opening along an edge of said strip body and having a sample application port at the edge, said strip body including a first, transparent or translucent portion which overlies a first part of the capillary test chamber and permits the capillary test chamber to be visible through the first portion, said strip body further including a second, opaque portion which overlies a second part of the capillary test chamber, the first portion being sized and positioned such that complete filling of the first portion with liquid is an indication that sufficient liquid is present to accurately perform a test with said test strip.

62. (New) The test strip of claim 61 in which the first, transparent or translucent portion extends inwardly of the test strip from the sample application port.

63. (New) The test strip of claim 61 in which said strip body further includes a vent hole communicating with the capillary test chamber.

64. (New) The test strip of claim 63 in which the fill line is positioned between the sample application port and the vent hole.

65. (New) The test strip of claim 61 and which further includes at least two conductive tracks affixed to said strip body and exposed to the capillary test chamber, the test reagent overlying at least a portion of the conductive tracks exposed to the capillary test chamber.

66. (New) A method for conducting a test on a bodily fluid sample using a test strip comprising:

providing a test strip of claim 39;

contacting the bodily fluid sample to the sample application port of the test strip;

observing through the first portion of the strip body the filling of the capillary test chamber to the fill line; and

after said observing, conducting the test.

67. (New) A method for determining if a sufficient bodily fluid sample is present in a test strip to conduct a test on the fluid sample comprising:

providing a test strip of claim 39;

contacting the bodily fluid sample to the sample application port of the test strip;

observing through the first portion of the strip body the filling of the capillary test chamber to the fill line.